

Mayor's Messages

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City Leverages \$400 Million Dollar Investment in Empowerment Zone

Nine neighborhoods. Years of disinvestment. No more.

During the past three years, the City of Cincinnati has made a concerted effort to stimulate investment in the Empowerment Zone neighborhoods of Avondale, Corryville, CUF, Evanston, Mt. Auburn, Over-the-Rhine, Queensgate, Walnut Hills, West End.

Recently, Mayor Luken asked Community Development to submit a report of City development investments in the Empowerment Zone, and how much private investment each public investment leveraged.

Since 2000, the City has invested over \$40 million in various development projects.

That \$40 million created another \$160 million in private investments.

The results: 1,100 jobs retained. 1,200 jobs created.



City Officials open the Alexandria Apartments in Walnut Hills. Jim King, developer, addresses the crowd gathered to tour the renovated building.

And 1,000 new housing units for Cincinnatians.

Even better, this year, we will announce projects in Corryville and CUF that will create almost 400 new housing units, all in the Empowerment Zone.

Reinvesting in the City is critical for our future. The City of Cincinnati is doing it, and together, with the private sector, our neighborhoods are seeing new projects on corners and streets throughout the City.

What is not reflected in these numbers is most important.

Every housing unit and every new business creates jobs. Cincinnatians are working at every aspect of these developments, learning skills that will remain with them for life and giving them job training for a life-long career.

For more info, call 352-3250 or email bernette.watson@cincinnati-oh.gov.

EMPOWERMENT ZONE HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Over-the-Rhine:

Findlay Market is one of our community's gems. Right now, thanks to a \$12 million investment, the Market will be completely renovated, and surrounded by new housing units and businesses. Each day, more progress is made. Stop by and visit the Market!

Evanston:

Dana & Montgomery is the crossroads of the Evanston Community, linking it with Xavier and Norwood. A new developer is moving forward with plans for the old BASF site, called Evanston Station. More news is expected this later year.

Walnut Hills:

The Old Burton Schoolhouse once was a place of education. Soon it will be a place to call home. With \$1.5 million from the City's housing round, Burton will undergo an almost \$5 million renovation to create upscale lofts in Walnut Hills.

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CINCINNATI BY THE NUMBERS

- 9: Cincinnati Empowerment Zone Neighborhoods
- 1,181: New jobs created in the Empowerment Zone since 2000
- 1,002: New housing units created in the Empowerment Zone since 2000
- 26: Firehouses in the City of Cincinnati
- \$500,000: Amount of money being raised by the Cincinnati Rotary Club to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera for every Cincinnati firehouse
- 591-6000: Number to call to receive City Services
- 24: Hours that the phones are answered in a day
- 26: Number of restaurants honored by Conde Nast in the United States as best new restaurants
- 1: Number of those restaurants in Cincinnati—congratulations to Jean Robert at Pigalls!!!

EAST PRICE HILL GETS *CLEANed* UP!

Ok, stop us if you've heard this one. A priest walks into a bar in East Price Hill...

Huh?

Well, it's not actually a joke, but a remarkable beginning to a story that best exemplifies the principles of Mayor Luken's CLEAN initiative.

CLEAN stands for Communication, Leadership, Evaluation, Assessment, and Neighborhood Involvement.

Last month, Mayor Luken attended a meeting at Queen's Tower, the residential complex that also houses the famed restaurant Prima Vista.

Residents interacted with neighborhood police officers, private security officers, elected officials, and community leaders.

Which brings us back to the Priest in East Price Hill.

Fr. Steve Angi is by all accounts a remarkable human being.

Just three years ago, Fr. Angi was a parish priest at St. Agnes in Bond Hill. Then he went to China. He worked with gangs, drug dealers and other criminals to help them retake their lives.

And now, he's in East Price Hill at Holy Family Church. Recently, Fr. Angi became an official Hamilton County Probation Officer, allowing him to report on offenders who are still causing trouble.

He's also taken pride in his new neighborhood by organizing litter cleanups, reporting abandoned buildings, and by keeping the neighbors informed about issues.

His strategy is working and his enthusiasm has spread.

Neighbors in East Price Hill have reported feeling safer and have a better sense of pride in their community.

One by one, buildings are redeveloped, vacant lots are cleaned up, and new residents move into Cincinnati.



Holy Family Church in East Price Hill

This type of story is not unique to East Price Hill. All over Cincinnati, neighborhood leaders are working to clean up their neighborhoods. When communities participate in their own future and development, the entire City benefits.

We hope this space can become a place where Cincinnatians share their positive stories about CLEANing up their neighborhoods.

If you have suggestions or ideas, please email brendon.cull@cincinnati-oh.gov.

SUCCESS IN DRUG ARRESTS!!!

April statistics for crime in Cincinnati are in, and they show significant progress in the quest to arrest drug dealers.

So far in 2003, drug arrests are up 36% across all five Cincinnati Police Districts.

This has largely been the result of targeted drug sweeps in Cincinnati's hot spots.

Criminal Investigations and the

Violent Crimes Task Forces have partnered up with neighborhood leaders to make the arrests that get the drugs off city streets.

Other good news in the numbers are seen in the amount of moving violations and parking tickets. Parking tickets are up 54% from last year.

Police Command Staff feel this

is a "visibility indicator." If officers are on the streets writing tickets, they are visible to neighbors—and to criminals.

Violent crime remains down 4.5%. Police are working hard to keep the crime numbers down, and the arrest numbers up.

To see the full package of statistics, visit <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/pages/-1718/>

SCHOOL LEVY STIMULATES NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday May 6, voters all around Cincinnati approved a \$480 million bond issue to improve Cincinnati Public Schools. This money will be used to renovate and even rebuild 66 of the district's 80 schools. It is obvious how this plan will directly affect school children, but the benefits for the community as a whole are not as apparent at first glance.



A birds-eye view of the new Rockdale Academy.

Take for example Rockdale Academy in Avondale. Even before the bond issue was passed, the Cincinnati School

board approved funds for a new building to be built to house the 650 students who attend Rockdale. Construction on the new site began in 2002 and is scheduled to be completed in August 2004. The new building will be 9,000 square feet larger than the current building and it will boast 32 classrooms, a gymnasium, playgrounds, a media center, and staff areas. Some of these new facilities will be available for use by the public.

Most impressive, however, is the planned expansion of the Health Center at Rockdale, which would replace the smaller Health Center in use now. The new Health Center will continue Rockdale's partnership with Children's Hospital Medical Center.

All of the schools in the Cincinnati Public School District have similar plans to involve the community in the newly built or

"Five years from now, this one-billion dollar investment will be making a huge difference in our neighborhoods and our children"—Mayor Luken

renovated schools. In the East End, Washington Park, and Windsor Schools, there are plans to create "community learning centers" or schools that partner with social service agencies and community groups. These new schools will provide many new opportunities for communities to come together, learn and mentor youth.

Thanks, Cincinnati, for investing in your schools!



Spotlight on Development—Centennial Station



Madisonville has had a number of significant "wins" for their community in the past two years.

With a revitalized business district, an amazing Citizens On Patrol organization, and a new recreation center, Madisonville residents are seeing dramatic changes in their neighborhood.

And soon, there will be 300 new neighbors to celebrate with.

Centennial Station, pictured at right,



is the newest upscale apartment complex in Madisonville. North American Properties developed the

\$24 million project. "These types of projects have the ability to attract new residents to our older neighborhoods," said Mayor Luken about the project. "300 new residents creates jobs and a need for new retail and commercial development in the business district."

Units at Centennial Station range from 640 to 1120 square feet, and rent is between \$700 and \$1200.

Stop by and take a look!

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*This newsletter is also
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DELIVER TO:

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Cincinnati:

On the front page of this newsletter, you will read a story about the City's investment in the Empowerment Zone.

This is something I am extremely proud of, and something that shows Cincinnati's commitment to revitalization of neighborhoods.

Each time I look at the numbers, I am reminded these investments are not just creating new housing units and new places of business. They create jobs.

In the traditional manner, they create jobs in new businesses. But tangentially, they create jobs for the builders, electricians, and construction workers at each site.

A perfect example is the son of my Chief-of-Staff, Bernadette Watson. Her son, Rodney Watson, worked as an electrician on the Alexandria Development in Walnut Hills. During construction, Rodney earned enough hours to move from apprentice to journeyman in the Electricians union.

And more importantly, he now has a skill that he can use for his entire life.

Rodney will now move on to new projects, new developments, and will keep working to build a new Cincinnati.

That is exactly the type of result the City wants when we invest in our neighborhoods. We create better communities, and we raise

the standard of living for our residents.

And congratulations to Rodney!

Until next month, keep up the good work in our neighborhoods, and keep up the fight to make Cincinnati Safe, Clean and Invested.

Sincerely,

Charlie Luken
Mayor, City of Cincinnati

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